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## Nearly \$1 million going to Long Beach green jobs

**About 125 at-risk youths and young adults will receive training.**

By Joe Segura, Staff Writer

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**LONG BEACH** - The state has pumped nearly \$1 million into the city's coffers to fund local Green Job Corps pilot programs.

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board, one of 11 regional programs receiving money, will get \$935,797 of federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Long Beach-based Green Job Corps partners will match the federal funds with resources, resulting in almost \$2 million in green job training and community service opportunities in the area, city officials said.

City Hall officials welcomed the news.

"I'm delighted to see these Recovery Act funds awarded to Long Beach and our regional partners. These funds will help provide important training to our youth in the emerging green jobs economy," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster.

Bryan Rogers, Workforce executive director, added: "This innovative use of Recovery Funds for the Network's Green Job Corps Initiative will serve dual purposes: the growth of a regional green job economy and the training of 125 at-risk youth, ages 16-24, in green and eco-friendly industries."

Earlier this week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the recipients of nearly \$10 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funding to launch 11 regional programs throughout the state.

The Recovery Act funding will be matched with more than \$10 million in regional resources to provide job training for 1,500 at-risk young adults, helping create a cleaner environment and spurring economic growth in California, according to the Governor's Office.

"We are working around the clock to bring Recovery Act funding into California as quickly, effectively and responsibly as possible to stimulate our economy," said Schwarzenegger.

At-risk participants will receive career training in energy/utilities efficiency and sustainability, green construction and green waste.

Youths, according to state officials, will also

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participate in community service activities, including weatherization outreach and assistance to senior housing facilities.

They will work with Habitat for Humanity to build low-cost, energy-efficient homes for low-income families, and work with Project Restoration to recycle computers and rebuild them for nonprofit use, state officials added.

Many local entities came together to create the effort, including the city, Long Beach Community Action Partnership, Long Beach Job Corps Center, Conservation Corps, El Camino Community College, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Unified School District, Yard Farmer and Los Angeles County's Growing Experience, according to city spokeswoman Kathy Parsons.

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